

Decisions,



Decisions

As you approach graduation, you’re probably getting asked what you’re going to do with your life. Are you going to college? Getting a job? Like most decisions, it’s easiest to take one step at a time. The guide below will help you start thinking about what you want, or don’t want, to do.

1. **Explore options.** Before making a decision, you need to know your options. Read about some options — like [apprenticeship](#), [higher education](#), [work](#), and [military](#) — right here in this paper. But, don’t limit yourself. Research volunteer work, traveling and other ideas you have about what you’d like to do.
2. **Prioritize.** Think about what’s important to you, or what your priorities are. If job experience or earning a paycheck is important to you, think about getting a job after graduation. If you’re looking for a balance between work and school, consider an apprenticeship. Record your future goals in a portfolio. As you explore options, see if they match your priorities.
3. **Ask others.** How did other people de-

- cide about their future? Ask your family, friends, counselor or teachers about the decisions they made after high school. How did they choose? Would they make the same choice again? Why or why not?
4. **Stay calm.** It’s all right to change your mind. And you’re not limited to one option. Many people work before going to college. Others spend time volunteering before starting a career. If you start considering your options now, it’ll be easier to make a decision later.
- Choose your classes carefully.** Everyone — regardless of their future path — must think about high school classes. High school classes are not only important for college! You need certain skills to succeed in life. Today’s workplace demands

Subject	Recommended Years	Why is it important?
English	4	Helps you develop communication skills needed for any type of job and everyday life.
Science	3	Provides an understanding of nature and helps develop objective thinking.
Math	3-4	Important requirement for entrance into many college programs - not just math and technology.
Social Science	2-3	Increases your awareness of how society and government interact and affect your life.
World Language	2	Strengthens your understanding of English and increases your awareness of other cultures.

Many high school classes are required for acceptance into college. Some colleges recommend additional classes in visual or performing arts, computers, history or geography. Specific requirements differ for each college. If you’re thinking about continuing your education, make sure you understand the requirements while you’re still in high school and can take additional classes.

a level of skill gained in part through challenging high school coursework. You need to express yourself clearly when speaking and writing. You need to understand what you read and solve problems with math or logic. And you should be comfortable with computers. Below are recommended high school subjects and

the recommended number of years. These may very well be **different** from your high school’s graduation requirements so you should be sure to check with your own guidance office when scheduling classes.

http://www.mncareers.org/future_planning.asp?pageid=fp01